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extreme tips alone remain above the sand. How many are absolutely covered, one can hardly even guess.

The force at work here is plain enough. The wind from the north and north-east drives the sand to the hill-top, and when it reaches the crest, gravity carries it down the southern declivity. Once the forests have been killed, and the leaves are fallen, there is nothing to arrest the force of the wind and the slow process of uncovering the tree trunks by the sand drifting away from them begins. This, however, appears to be simply shifted further south, covering up fresh forests as it advances. While, therefore, ground is being lost to the forests and to the hay makers in the south and west, there is a gain on the north, for enough of the sand remains there to raise the general level of these meadows slightly, and to make them less subject to frequent overflow. Indeed as we have seen, a second forest growth is commencing on that very spot.

To one familiar with the dunes on Cape Cod, those of Lewes are striking from the fact of the absence of the wild rose, blueberries, beach-plums, etc., which one finds so common in the Massachusetts examples. They illustrate further, that we have on our own soil, and within a few hours of this city, the same forces operating which were so destructive on the shores of the Bay of Biscay. These dunes and trees suggest further that the same remedies which restored a vast area (rescued from the sandy deluge) again to France may in time have to be appealed to here. There is, however, this difference, that whereas, in Europe, it was the *Pinus Pinaster* Soland. or Maritime Pine that was used to make seaward barrier, we here can safely depend upon the *Pinus rigida* or Pitch Pine, which is thriving now at Lewes, to accomplish this same result. Indeed from Massachusetts south to Lewes, here and there, in sight of the sea and on a most sandy soil this tree is flourishing almost as well as it does on the rocky hillsides in the interior of Pennsylvania.

MAY 14.

MR. EDW. GOLDSMITH in the chair.

Twenty-three persons present.

A paper entitled "Catalogue of the Muscicapidæ in the Collection of the Academy," by Witmer Stone was presented for publication.

Notes on Corema Conradii.—MR. J. H. REDFIELD stated at the meeting of the Botanical Section of the Academy held May 13th, that it had been supposed of late years that *Corema Conradii* Torr. had disappeared from the pine barrens of New Jersey, the earliest reported station for the plant. He referred to an unsuccessful search for it, made by the late Charles F. Parker and himself in April, 1869, at Cedar Bridge, Ocean Co., N. J., where Dr. Torrey had seen it in 1834 and had indicated the exact locality in the Annals of N. Y. Lyc.

Nat. Hist. IV. 85. In a notice of that search given in the Proceedings of the Academy for 1869, p. 91, Mr. Redfield had said, "If the *Corema* is again to be discovered in New Jersey it will probably be in the wide sandy waste a few miles west of Cedar Bridge, near the boundary between Burlington and Ocean Counties, where a succession of elevated ancient beaches offers conditions similar to those of Cape Cod." He had now the satisfaction to report that about two years ago the plant was discovered by Prof. Merrill of Columbia College, N. Y., in the precise region which had been indicated. The place was soon after visited by Prof. Britton, and in April of this year, at the invitation of the latter, Mr. Arthur Hollick, Dr. J. B. Brinton and Mr. Redfield had accompanied him in a visit to the locality which lies about three miles west of Cedar Bridge, and about eleven miles west of Barnegat. The region is most singular in its aspect and impresses one with a sense of desolate loneliness. Forming the divide or water-shed, it rises in gentle swells which command an extensive view of a sandy desert leached by the rains to a degree of barrenness such that the scattered trees of *Pinus rigida* can attain the height of only three or four feet. The party was surprised at the amazing extent of *Corema*, exceeding that of any locality yet reported in the United States, being more or less abundant over a tract nearly a square mile in extent, its scattered patches in some places becoming confluent over large spaces. Myriads of young seedlings were also springing up in the bare white sand, so that there is little prospect of the plant becoming extinct. This is now the most southern station known for *Corema*, and was probably the origin of the few patches which Dr. Torrey found at Cedar Bridge, in 1834, but which had disappeared before 1869.

The following communications were made in connection with the proceedings of the Conchological Section:

The Radula in Rhipidoglossate Mollusks.—MR. H. A. PILSBRY spoke of the modes of specialization of the radula in rhipidoglossate mollusks illustrating his remarks by black-board diagrams. He stated that the marginal teeth undergo but slight variations throughout the group. The reduction in number of the teeth consequent upon the enlargement of the individual teeth takes place in the median portion of the membrane, where differentiation of the primitive homodont radula commenced. In the family Trochidæ the outer lateral teeth (next to the numerous undifferentiated marginal teeth) become degenerate in the more specialized forms (*Trochus*, *Clanculus*, etc.) which have only five perfect laterals, a sixth being represented by a small plate without cusp or cutting point. In certain other genera of Trochids, there are seven or more laterals. In Turbinidæ and Phasianellinæ, on the other hand, the reduction in number of the teeth proceeds by the obsolescence or total loss of the central tooth (as in the group of Phasianellæ which the speaker had named *Orthomesus*), or the loss of the cusp of the tooth, as in certain